

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 07978 222203Z
ACTION DLOS-09

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 484
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9681

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7978

FOR LOS DEL

FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, PINC, CO
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: SENATOR DIEGO URIBE VARGAS

REF: USUN 3245

1. SENATOR URIBE, LIBERAL (TURBAYISTA) SENATOR FROM CUNDINAMARCA DEPARTMENT (WHICH INCLUDES BOGOTA) AND POSSIBLE FUTURE FOREIGN MINISTER, WAS BORN IN BOGOTA IN 1931. HE EARNED A LAW DEGREE AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HERE AND WENT ON TO STUDY INTERNATIONAL LAW AT THE HAGUE AND CANON LAW IN SPAIN. SENATOR URIBE ALSO HAS BEEN A UNIVERSITY RECTOR AND PROFESSOR, MUNICIPAL JUDGE, LIBERAL PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL AND DIRECTOR, CONGRESSMAN, AND UNGA DELEGATE. IN THE CONGRESS, HE HAS BEEN CHARIMAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE, AND A LONG-TIME MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

2. URIBE CONSIDERS HIMSELF TO BE AN INTELLECTUAL AND A SHREWD POLITICIAN. EVEN MOST OF HIS CRITICS WILL ADMIT THAT HE IS ONE OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE
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MEN IN COLOMBIA IN REGARD TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS. TWO OF HIS SPECIAL INTERESTS IN THIS AREA ARE THE LAW OF THE SEA AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN WHICH HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE FOR YEARS. REGARDING THE FORMER, HE HAS BEEN A PRINCIPAL PROPONENT OF A 200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA FOR COLOMBIA; AS FOR THE LATTER, HE HAS SOUGHT PASSAGE, UNSUCCESSFULLY, OF A BILL PROVIDING FOR AN OMBUDSMAN TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA/ HE

ALSO HAS AUTHORED SEVERAL BOOKS ON BOTH SUBJECTS.

3. THE SENTARO HAS BEEN A GOOD FRIEND OF EMBASSY OFFICERS, ALTHOUGH HE TENDS NOT TO SPEAK VERY OPENLY. HE IS AN OPEN FRANCOPHILE AND GENERALLY PRO-WEST.

4. URIBE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER EMMA GAVIRIA AND HAS TWO CHILDREN. HE SPEAKS FLUENT FRENCH AND SOME ENGLISH. ASECIO

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